

Motor Voter Impact on Minor Party Voter Registration Proportions

Total Registered Voters – July 1, 2015	2,163,364
Total Registered Voters – January 2020	2,820,750
Increase	657,386
Oregon Population Growth 2016-2019	3.8%
Voter Increase Estimate Due to Population Growth	24,981
Voter Increase Estimate Due to Motor Voter	632,405

This analysis suggests that as many as 632,405 current voters can be attributed to the expansion of the Motor Voter program over a four-year period. That number represents a 29% expansion of the electorate when the program started in 2016. If you adjust the minor party threshold of 0.5% by reducing it proportional to the growth attributed to Motor Voter, the threshold would be 0.36%.

To reach a 0.5% threshold in July 2015, a minor party would need to have 10,817 voters. If a party had maintained that same number of voters over the same period, the threshold would need to be lowered to 0.38% to have the organization retain its minor party status after the surge of voters added through Motor Voter.

Policy Choices in HB 4026

Keeping the threshold steady at 0.5% requires a minor party to have at least 14,104 voters as of January 2020.

Reducing the threshold to 0.33% will require a minor party to have at least 9,402 voters as of January 2020.

Reducing the threshold to 0.25% will require a minor party to have at least 7,052 voters as of January 2020.